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UCF Report

Volume 21 • No. 18 • April 2, 1999

A publication for faculty and staff

UCF scientists driven to tame I-4 beast

UCF's Transportation Systems Institute is developing ways to ease traffic problems

Motorists on Interstate 4 have someone watching over them.

In what might seem like technology ripped from a science fiction novel, video cameras are mounted on posts and magnetic sensors are embedded in the pavement along the 38 miles between Lake Mary and Walt Disney World,

letting transportation authorities know when there's a traffic jam, an auto accident or a motorist with car problems.

Now, researchers in UCF's Transportation Systems Institute, who mastered the algorithms used for the sensors, are fine-tuning the technology to improve response time when there's trouble.

The dilemma now is that four technicians in the Freeway Management Center in Orange County have

Please see
TRANSPORTATION, page 4

Satellite campuses sprouting up all over

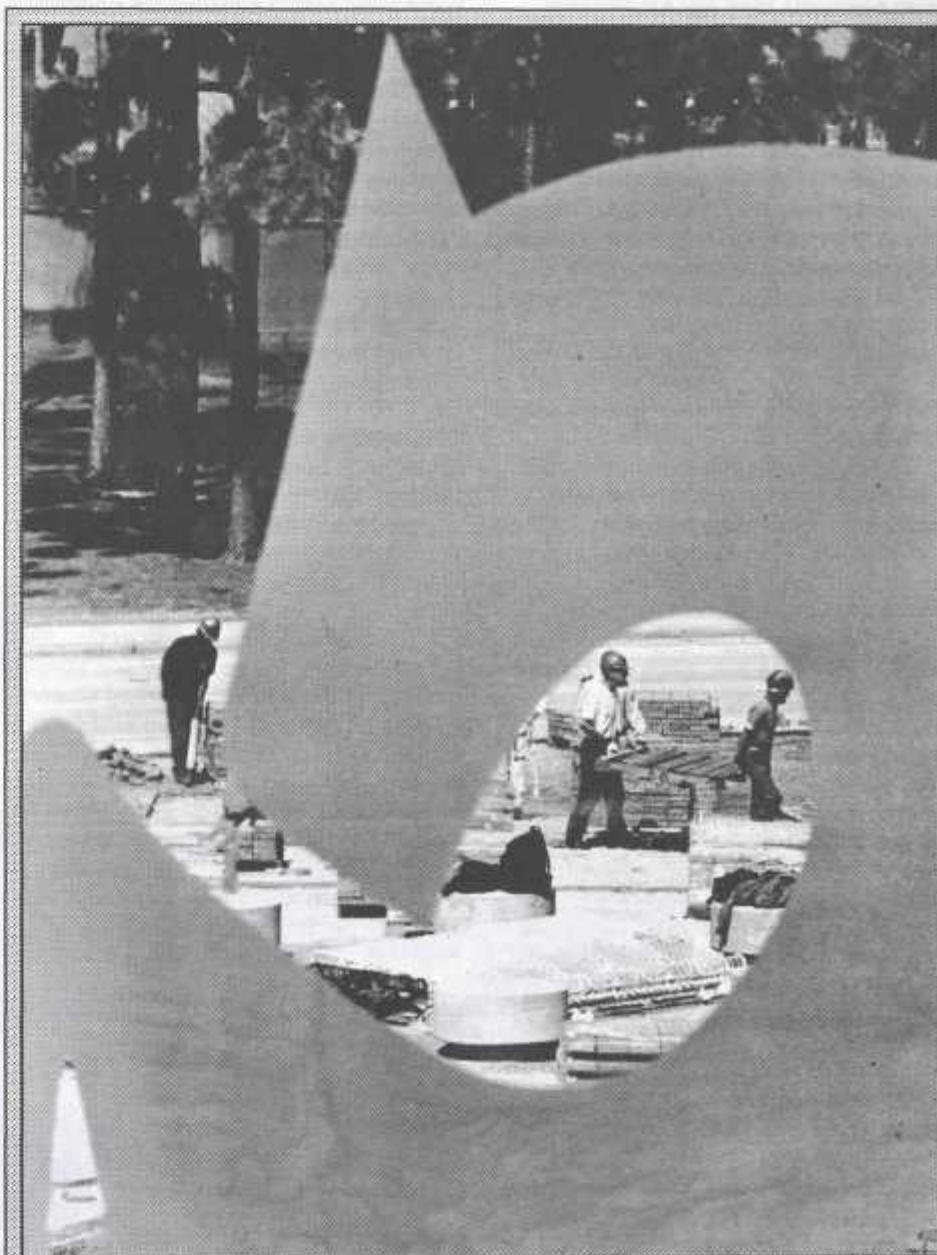
Branch campuses are planned or in the works in seven central Florida counties

The University of Central Florida is living up to its name. Just a few decades ago a scattering of buildings on the northern edge of Orange County, UCF is quickly becoming a major university with branch campuses throughout the region it serves.

The university is no stranger to Brevard and Volusia counties, of course, where it has shared campuses for years with Brevard Community College in Cocoa and Daytona Beach Community College. Classes are also offered at the Downtown (Orlando) Academic Center, South Orlando campus, the Palm Bay campus of BCC, and Seminole Community College.

What is new is that within two years, UCF will begin offering

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Jacque Brund

A watchful eye

Workers on the west side of the Student Union prepare the site for the union's expansion. From this view from a second floor window, it appears that Pegasus is keeping an eye on their progress.

Questions remain for UCF in Legislature

Top priorities are salaries, enrollment, funds for construction and enhancements

The Florida Senate and House have passed their own 1999-2000 appropriations bills of approximately \$2.2 billion, but how much of the pie the University of

Central Florida still receives remains a mystery.

What is known is the state has allocated Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) dollars for UCF and funds for the Florida High-Tech Corridor project.

"Both bills treat the State University System reasonably well," says Dan Holsenbeck, vice president for University Relations and UCF's lobbyist. "Both have attempted to

address the chancellor's priorities, which UCF wholeheartedly supports."

Of greatest concern to UCF are enrollment, salaries, PECO recommendations and funds to enhance infrastructure, graduate research and research, and undergraduate studies.

This year, budget allocations will be distributed differently than in the past. The state will appropriate a lump sum to the SUS. The Board of Regents will distribute those dollars

to each university based on its classification. School administrators will then distribute the funds within their university. In the past, budget appropriations for specific uses were decided on the state level.

"As a Research II university, we will receive more research monies than a Comprehensive university, but

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LEGISLATURE, page 2

April

Next issue of The UCF Report is April 16 • Deadline is noon, April 7

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Memo

To: Vice presidents, deans, directors and chairs

From: William Merck, Administration and Finance

Subject: Contractual agreements

It is critically important that the following information be understood and forwarded to those under your direction who may have reason to develop or negotiate contractual arrangements with outside vendors and that commit the university to future payments from any fund source.

In the recent past, several contracts were signed by university officials not authorized to commit the university to contractual payments. In addition, most of these contracts did not have an approved purchase requisition, filed in advance, to permit payments on the contract. The university was then placed in the position of trying to initiate proper paperwork AFTER the services had been completed, in direct violation of Florida statutes. Florida statutes require that all contractual services be fully approved in advance of the commencement of the services being performed.

The state comptroller (rightfully) has REFUSED TO PAY unauthorized and improperly processed contractual commitments. Those signing the agreements subject the university to significant embarrassment as we find ourselves unable to pay commitments after they become due. It is even possible that unauthorized signers of contracts could be subjected to personal liability for the commitments made.

The following rules and procedures must be followed when entering into contractual arrangements with outside vendors, which commit the university to future payments:

1. All contracts must be completed and signed by both parties in advance of

any services being performed and must contain certain necessary statutory language.

2. All contracts must be signed by Jack Winstead, director of Purchasing, (or his designee) or by a limited number of people in Sponsored Research, the Student Center (entertainment contracts) and Athletics, with specifically delegated authority to enter into contractual agreements.

3. After signing by all parties, all contracts must be reviewed by Beth Liberto, university general counsel.

4. Purchase requisitions must be prepared, approved and forwarded to Purchasing before services are performed, along with the original of the properly executed contract.

There are no exceptions to the above requirements. Refusal by the state comptroller to pay improperly constituted contracts cannot be controlled or overruled by Finance and Accounting, Purchasing, the General Counsel's Office or my office.

Your cooperation and assistance in assuring that these procedures are followed is essential and will be greatly appreciated.

To: Building managers

From: UCF Safety Committee

Subject: Safety Assistance for Emergencies (SAFE) team appointments

The UCF Safety Committee is starting an exciting new training initiative involving the newly created SAFE Team. The team's mission will be to assist emergency responders, as well as faculty and staff, by helping people during building emergencies on campus. The team will be made up of volunteers who will assist you with keeping your building informed and prepared for potential emergencies. We envision that the SAFE Team will make your jobs as building managers much easier.

The Safety Committee is asking you to please announce this opportunity at your next staff meeting. We ask that you

appoint a minimum of two persons per floor of your building and send your list of appointees to: UCF Safety Committee, c/o Environmental Health and Safety, Zip+4 3500, Physical Plant Complex.

The first SAFE Team fair is tentatively scheduled for June 8 in the Student Union

To: UCF community

From: Jack Winstead, Purchasing

Linda Bonta, Controller

Subject: Food purchases

In an effort to protect faculty, staff, students and guests and to minimize potential liability problems, a change in policy related to food purchases is being implemented. These changes have been reviewed by the UCF General Counsel's office and other administrators.

Effective immediately, LPOs and Blanket Purchase Orders should not be used to purchase food and food related products. Food purchases are divided into three categories as defined below:

1. Catering which is prepared food as outlined in the Business Services Nonexclusive Catering Memorandum must be purchased from one of the approved vendors using a Food Services Requisition. Contact Business Services for information on the policy and procedures to acquire catering, as well as a list of approved vendors.

2. Nonperishable food items are to be purchased using a Purchase Requisition. Requisitions must be processed in advance of any purchase. This includes items such as cookies, potato chips, soft drinks and other general grocery items that are usually purchased from a grocery store.

3. Cooking and preparation of foods, such as hamburgers and hotdogs, is strictly prohibited unless performed by an authorized caterer.

This policy applies to the main campus and Research Park only. Off-campus centers are encouraged to use approved vendors, but are not required to do so.

Seven steps to creating a better UCF

Want a better university? No problem, promise the folks running the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges — if we're willing to work to make that happen. After extensive research, the association has come up with a seven-part test to determine if a university — with apologies to the U.S. Army for swiping its slogan — is all it can be.

Following are the "seven guiding characteristics ... [that] define an engaged institution."

1. Responsiveness. Are we listening to the communities, regions and states we serve? Are

we asking the right questions? Do we offer our services in the right way at the right time? Are our communication

ions clear? Do we provide space and, if need be, resources for preliminary community-university discussions of the public problem to be addressed? Above all, do we really understand that in reaching out, we are also obtaining valuable information for our own purposes?

2. Respect for partners. The purpose of engagement is not to provide the university's superior expertise to the community but to encourage joint academic-community definitions of problems, solutions and definitions of success. Here we need to ask ourselves if our institutions genuinely respect the skills and capacities of our partners in collaborative projects. In a sense we are asking that we recognize fully that we have almost as much to learn in these efforts as we have to offer.

3. Academic neutrality. Of necessity, some of our engagement activities will involve contentious issues are whether they draw on our science and technology, social science expertise or strengths in the visual and performing arts. Do pesticides contribute to fish kills? If so, how? How does access to high-quality public schools relate to economic development in minority communities? Is student "guerrilla theater" justified in local landlord-tenant disputes. These questions often have profound social, economic and political consequences. The question we need to ask ourselves here is whether outreach maintains the university in the role of neutral facilitator and source of information when public policy issues, particularly contentious ones, are at stake.

4. Accessibility. Our institutions are confusing to outsiders. We need to find ways to help inexperienced potential partners negotiate

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LEGISLATURE,
continued from page 1

less than a Research I university. But we will receive favorable treatment for undergraduate enhancements," Holsenbeck says.

"UCF supports the lump sum request process because the distribution is up to the discretion of each university."

PECO funds have been approved for five UCF requests. The bills appropriate \$1 million for infrastructure projects, \$6.3 million for the Engineering II Building, more than \$500,000 (\$700,000 by the Senate, \$562,319 by the House) for a Biological Sciences annex and \$8.4 million for a Health and Public Affairs II Building. The Senate also proposed \$11.7 million for the Orlando Performing Arts and Education Center.

The only budget certainty is the tax-exemption incentive that will further support the Florida High-Tech Corridor project. The state will match \$17.6 million that resulted from the \$1 billion expansion of the Cilent Semiconductor plant on John Young Parkway. "That was fully funded in both houses," Holsenbeck says.

The legislative session has just passed its midway point. Representatives from the House and Senate will meet to iron out the details of the two proposed budgets and then present it to Gov. Jeb Bush for approval.

— Joanne Griggs



Jacques Brund

Heavenly sounds

The UCF Gospel Choir performed at the gospel music extravaganza "Let's Have Church" in the Visual Arts Auditorium on Sunday, March 28, hosted by the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

University founder dies

University founder William "Billy" Dial died Tuesday, March 23. He was 91.

Besides his influence in the establishment of UCF, Dial, an Orlando lawyer and banker, is widely credited for helping to bring Walt Disney World and the Florida Turnpike to the area.

He arrived in Orlando in the early '30s and spent almost 30 years practicing law before going into the banking business. In 1953, Dial was appointed to the Florida Board of Control, now the Board of Regents. While on the board, he pushed for a university in Orlando. He was born in Lake City in 1907.

Short Takes

UCF's best honored at Founders Day

The Founders Day Honors Convocation is Wednesday, April 7, beginning at 10 a.m. It will be held in the Visual Arts Auditorium. Classes will be canceled 10-11:50 a.m. that day to allow the university community to participate in the event.

Videotape showing off UCF available

Videotapes promoting the university are available in VHS format for presentations. The eight-minute tapes, produced by the Public Relations Office, is an overview of the University of Central Florida's growth, representative classes and programs, and relationships with the business and cultural community. To get a tape, call the Office of Public Relations at 823-2730.

Promotion, tenure workshop planned

A promotion and tenure workshop will be held in the President's Dining Room on Tuesday, April 6, 3-5 p.m. Department chairs and candidates for promotion and tenure for the 1999-2000 academic year are encouraged to attend. A panel of deans and recently tenured or promoted faculty will provide their thoughts on the process. President John Hitt and Provost Gary Whitehouse will present their views on criteria. Vice Provost Frank Juge will present information on the application procedure, timetable and the preparation of the application file.

Oops, sorry!

Judith Hemschmeyer, associate English professor, published a book of short stories called "The Harvest" in October. The March 19 issue of *The UCF Report* incorrectly reported that "The Harvest" itself is a short story.

Upcoming holiday

Want some time off? Better take a vacation. The next universitywide holiday isn't until Memorial Day, May 31.

This issue

This issue of *The UCF Report* is for the weeks of April 2-8 and April 9-15. It is the 18th issue of fiscal year 1998-99. *The UCF Report* is published 23 times a year (every other week in the fall and spring, and every third week in the summer).

The UCF Report

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programs at joint-use facilities at Lake-Sumter Community College in Clermont and Central Florida Community College in Ocala. The state will provide \$1.6 million for a 48,000-square-foot addition to a new Brevard Community College facility in Palm Bay. And although there are no specific plans or funds, there is talk of a future partnership with Valencia Community College in Osceola County and in west Orange County.

"The master plan for the university says we will meet part of our course demands at regional campuses, to reach out to communities," says Vice Provost Frank Juge. "Looking at the size of this campus, by 2010, if we didn't move [onto branch campuses], we would have over 50,000 students — too many for this campus."

In 10 years, 7,000-8,000 students could be taking upper level and graduate courses at regional campuses, he adds.

UCF's longtime partnerships with Brevard and Daytona Beach community colleges have been so successful in meeting satellite-area demands and relieving main campus crowding that the Board of Regents is using the partnerships as a model for the entire State University System.

"The chancellor [Adam Herbert] and the community college people seem to agree this is the approach they want to use to respond to the demand for four-year degrees," says Juge.

Jack Rollins, UCF's executive officer at Daytona Beach, says his campus — with about 1,500 UCF students — is striving for a higher profile in Volusia County and trying to establish a presence in DeLand.

"We're sending some of our key people out to set up things at Lake-Sumter," he says. "We're

giving people access to education ... [and] trying to keep individual campuses from getting so massive and unmanageable. With a projection of an excess of 100,000 additional students in 10 years, this is one way we can do that."

UCF will have a \$10 million, joint-use facility at Lake-Sumter and a smaller joint-use building at Central Florida Community College. Copying the method used last fall at Seminole Community College, "we will begin next fall to offer a few courses [in Ocala]. We'll get to know where the demand is and offer more and more courses and some degree programs," Rollins says.

Core UCF offerings at satellite campuses, Juge says, include business, education and liberal arts. Other degree programs, such as nursing and sports-related health and training for Lake-Sumter Community College, with an adjacent hospital and Olympic training center, are geared to specific needs of each community.

"Our students [at branches] are predominately female and working. There are no traditional students at these sites; classes are offered primarily in the evening to accommodate them," says Juge.

He adds that UCF's interactive television system, which links all campuses, allows a handful of students at any location to become part of a larger electronic class shared by all branches.

James Drake, UCF's executive officer for the Brevard campus, adds that concurrent use eliminates duplication of facilities, programs and personnel, while delivering satellite students the same quality of education offered on the main campus.

— Susan Loden



Jacque Brund

Snake in the grass
 Student Dave Thompson introduced his Burmese python to youngsters visiting campus last week. The snake is Thompson's pet; he was taking it for a "walk."

COLUMN, continued from page 2

this complex structure so that what we have to offer is more readily available. Do we properly publicize our activities and resources? Have we made a concentrated effort to increase community awareness of the resources and programs available from us that might be useful? Above all, can we honestly say that our expertise is equally accessible to all the constituencies of concern within our states and communities, including minority constituents?

5. **Integration.** Our institutions need to find ways to integrate their service mission with their responsibilities for developing intellectual capital and trained intelligence. Engagement offers new opportunities for integrating institutional scholarship with the service and teaching missions of the university. Here we need to worry about whether the institutional climate fosters outreach, service and engagement. A commitment to interdisciplinary work is probably indispensable to an integrated approach. In particular, we need to examine what kinds of incentives are useful in encouraging faculty and student commitment to engagement. Will respected faculty and student leaders not only participate but also serve as advocates for the program?

6. **Coordination.** A corollary to integration, the coordination issue involves making sure the left hand knows what the right hand is doing. The task of coordinating service activities are whether through

a senior adviser to the president, faculty councils or thematic structures such as the Great Cities Project or "capstone" courses are clearly requires a lot of attention. Are academic units dealing with each other productively? Do the communications and government relations office understand the engagement agenda? Do faculty, staff and students need help in developing the skills of translating expert knowledge into something the public can appreciate?

7. **Resource partnerships.** The final test asks whether the resources committed to the task are sufficient. Engagement is not free; it costs. The most obvious costs are those associated with the time and effort of staff, faculty and students. But they also include curriculum and program costs and possible limitations on institutional choices. All of these have to be considered. Where will these funds be found? In special state allocations? Corporate sponsorship and investment? Alliances and strategic partnerships of various kinds with government and industry? Or from new fee structures for services delivered? The most successful engagement efforts appear to be those associated with strong and healthy relationships with partners in government, business and the non-profit world.

Source: National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges

Student-athletes scoring in the classroom

By the numbers: Fall 1998 report

Sport	Team GPA	No.	3.0-3.9	4.0
MEN				
Baseball	2.863	32	13	2
Basketball	2.235	14	2	0
Cross Cty	2.799	15	6	1
Football	2.410	122	39	1
Golf	2.763	11	5	1
Soccer	2.931	23	11	4
Tennis	2.967	9	5	0
WOMEN				
Basketball	2.866	13	5	2
Crew	2.961	95	41	9
Cross Cty	3.079	25	9	4
Golf	2.424	8	3	1
Soccer	2.750	23	10	1
Tennis	3.692	7	3	3
Track/Field	2.930	46	18	4
Volleyball	3.351	13	11	1

	All students	Student-athletes
Number	30,009	456
% good standing	89.8 (26,957)	91.4 (417)
% on probation	8.4 (2,531)	7.7 (35)
% disq/excl	1.7 (521)	.88 (4)

- 39.8 percent of male student-athletes earned a 3.0 GPA or better
- 54.3 percent of female student-athletes earned a 3.0 GPA or better
- 47.1 percent of all student-athletes earned a 3.0 GPA or better
- 7.5 percent of all student-athletes earned a 4.0 GPA

The graduation rate and combined grade point average for athletes are higher than for other students

UCF's student-athletes are proving they are players in the classroom as well as on the court, course or field. Collectively, they have a higher grade point average and graduate at a higher rate than other students.

"The image out there [of the dumb jock] doesn't match up with reality," says Athletic Director Steve Sloan. "We've had a lot of good students."

How good?

Of the 30,009 students who were enrolled at UCF at the start of last fall, 8.4 percent struggled with poor grades. But for student-athletes, the numbers were even more impressive: just 7.7 percent were on academic probation — and almost the same percentage (7.5) had a GPA of 4.0; 47.1 percent of UCF's student-athletes had at least a 3.0 GPA.

Those grades are no accident, Sloan says. Student-athletes are strongly encouraged to take full advantage of academic services for them: constant monitoring of their progress, advising, tutoring and counseling to ensure that they retain both UCF and NCAA eligibility.

"Time management is the most important thing we teach," says Sandra Reeves, director for UCF's Academic Services for Student Athletes program. "It looks easy from a distance, but it's a day-to-day grind and more of a challenge than the public perception. It requires a great deal of discipline" for students to juggle practice, traveling, games, injuries, class work, homework and campus activities.

Impressively, since 1994, 802 student-athletes have made the Athletic Director's Honor Roll and

327 have garnered Academic All-Conference honors. Last year, UCF won the Trans America Athletic Conference Academic Championship Trophy.

The focus on academic success for student-athletes is important, Sloan says, because most will not play in the pro ranks. "Less than 1 percent will be professional athletes. Their main purpose should be to get a degree so they can get a job. Everything is focused on your major. What do you want to do [in life]?"

Along with parents and advisers pushing the student-athletes to achieve are their coaches, Sloan says.

"The image out there [of the dumb jock] doesn't match up with reality. We've had a lot of good students."

Steve Sloan, athletic director

"Their coach ... has the most influence on them as far as class attendance and eligibility go. A lot of times we take counselors with them on trips so they can study while traveling," he says.

"Obviously, we want to be the best we can as far as competitiveness. But we're not going to do anything to sacrifice or compromise the character and integrity of the university or to hinder graduation. You've got to make every decision based on character and integrity; if you don't, you start to erode because you've circumvented the right thing to do."

— Susan Loden

TRANSPORTATION, continued from page 1

the task of monitoring 70 scenes from the video cameras, showing I-4 every 1/2 mile, and reading information from 70 traffic sensors. The sensors record traffic volume and the average speed of vehicles, then transmits the information to the Freeway Management Center and to UCF.

"With the current method, it could take as long as seven minutes for one of the workers to scan all the sites on the monitors or to read the statistics. With the new system we're working on, it could be less than a minute before emergency crews are dispatched," says UCF civil engineering professor Haitham Al-Deek, director for the Transportation Systems Institute, located in the Research Pavilion.

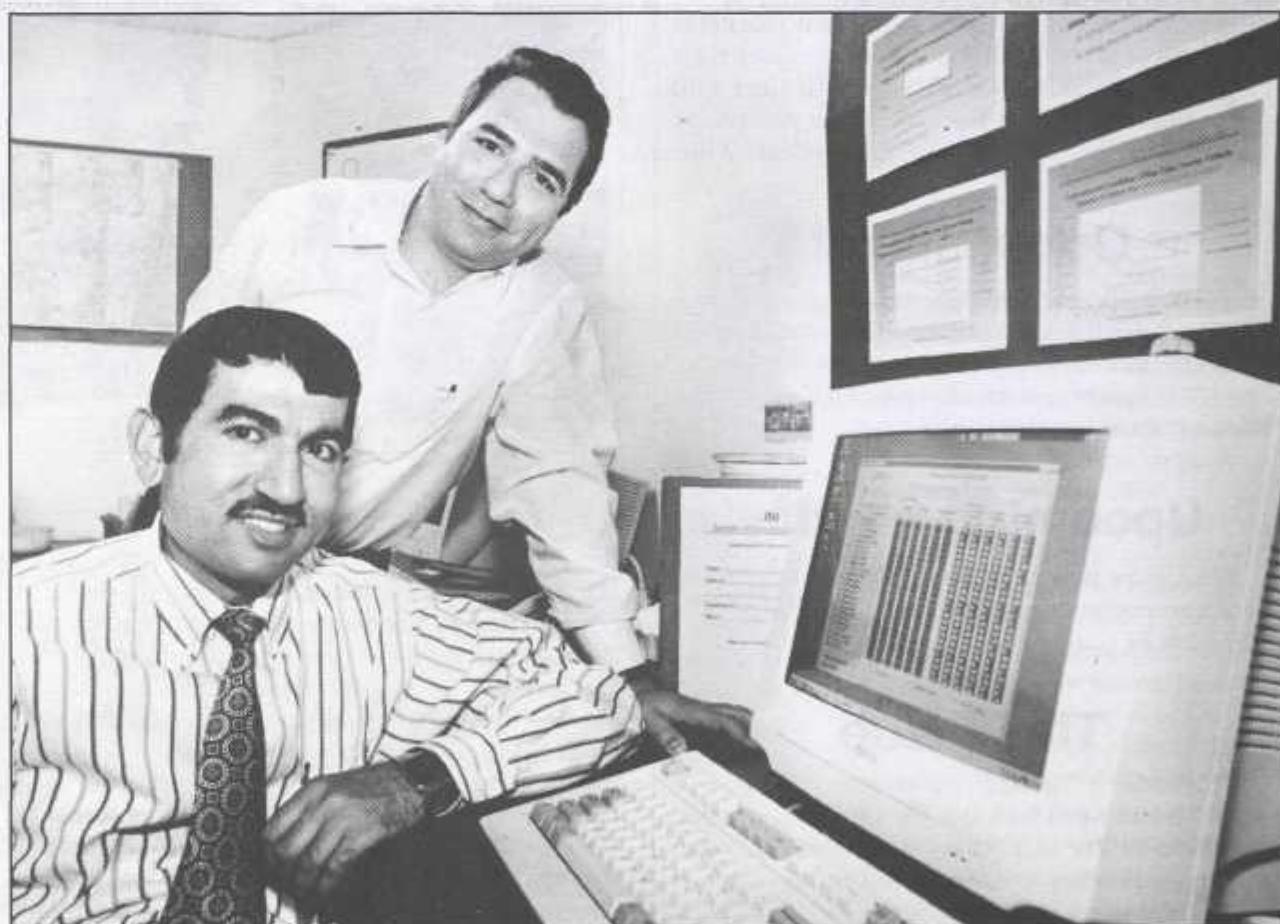
Al-Deek's team is adapting a system, Autosense-III, that would detect an incident and sound an alarm in the Freeway Management Center. Technicians could zoom in on a specific site and determine what assistance is needed. "It would be particularly important during peak [congestion] hours because the problems can really pile up then," Al-Deek says.

Installation of Autosense-III along I-4 and at East-West Expressway toll booths could occur in the next two or three months. Al-Deek says it will improve accuracy when measuring traffic flow, speed, congestion, vehicle classification and accidents. Transportation Systems Institute lab manager Sherif Ishak worked with Al-Deek on the project, creating the computer model.

"The vehicle identification will show if it's a truck, whether a vehicle is towing a boat and the shape of the vehicle," says Al-Deek. "It increases the ability to determine congestion because you can see just how long it takes a particular vehicle to move from one point to another. Also, this information could be used by law enforcement in the future."

UCF researchers have also provided a model for calculating delays. "The electronic signs [telling motorists on I-4 what is ahead] have been up for years, but that information has been based on educated guesses. Our model is based on data and will be much more accurate," Al-Deek says.

In a related project, UCF researchers conducted studies on the effectiveness of using electronic toll



Jacque Brund

Haitham Al-Deek and Sherif Ishak are driving the university's Transportation Systems Institute.

collection — known as E-Pass — on central Florida's toll roads. Their findings that electronic toll collection saves government and drivers time and money and reduces pollution has been verified by actual results. Al-Deek, civil engineering professor Essam Radwan and doctoral candidate Ayman Mohamed studied the effects before and after installation of E-Pass. They continue to monitor its effectiveness. "We were the first university to evaluate real live electronic toll collection and prove that it works," says Al-Deek.

Another study, sponsored by the Florida Department of Transportation, involves trucks

passing in and out of Florida's ports. Increase in truck freight means worse congestion, more safety problems and the tearing up of roads. So far, UCF researchers have compiled an extensive report and are now developing software that can predict what truck traffic will be like in 15 or 20 years.

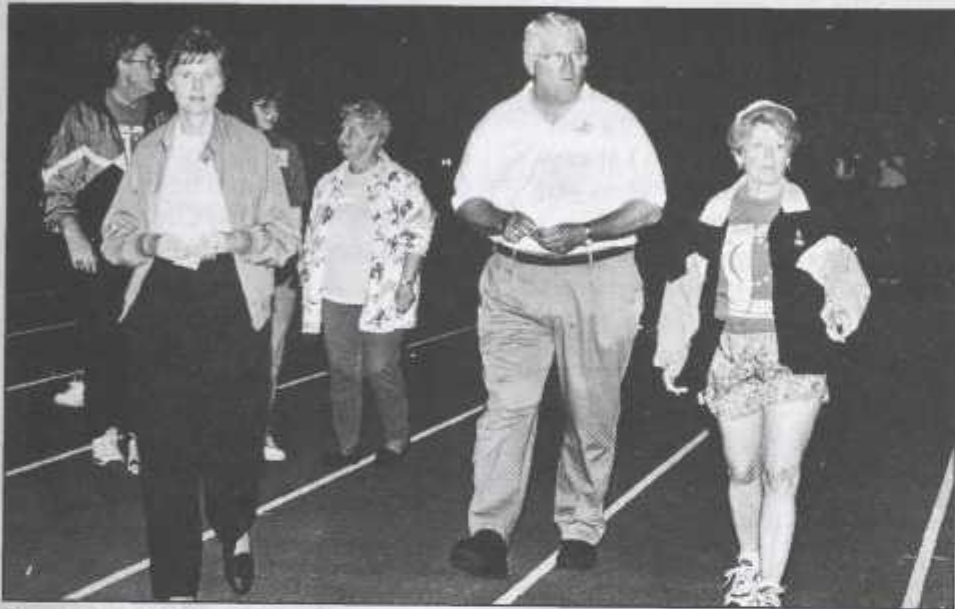
Al-Deek left the University of California at Berkeley to come to UCF seven years ago. Over the last five years, he was principal or co-principal investigator for 25 projects, resulting in \$2.7 million in funding. Al-Deek is UCF's 1999 Researcher of the Year.

— Joanne Griggs

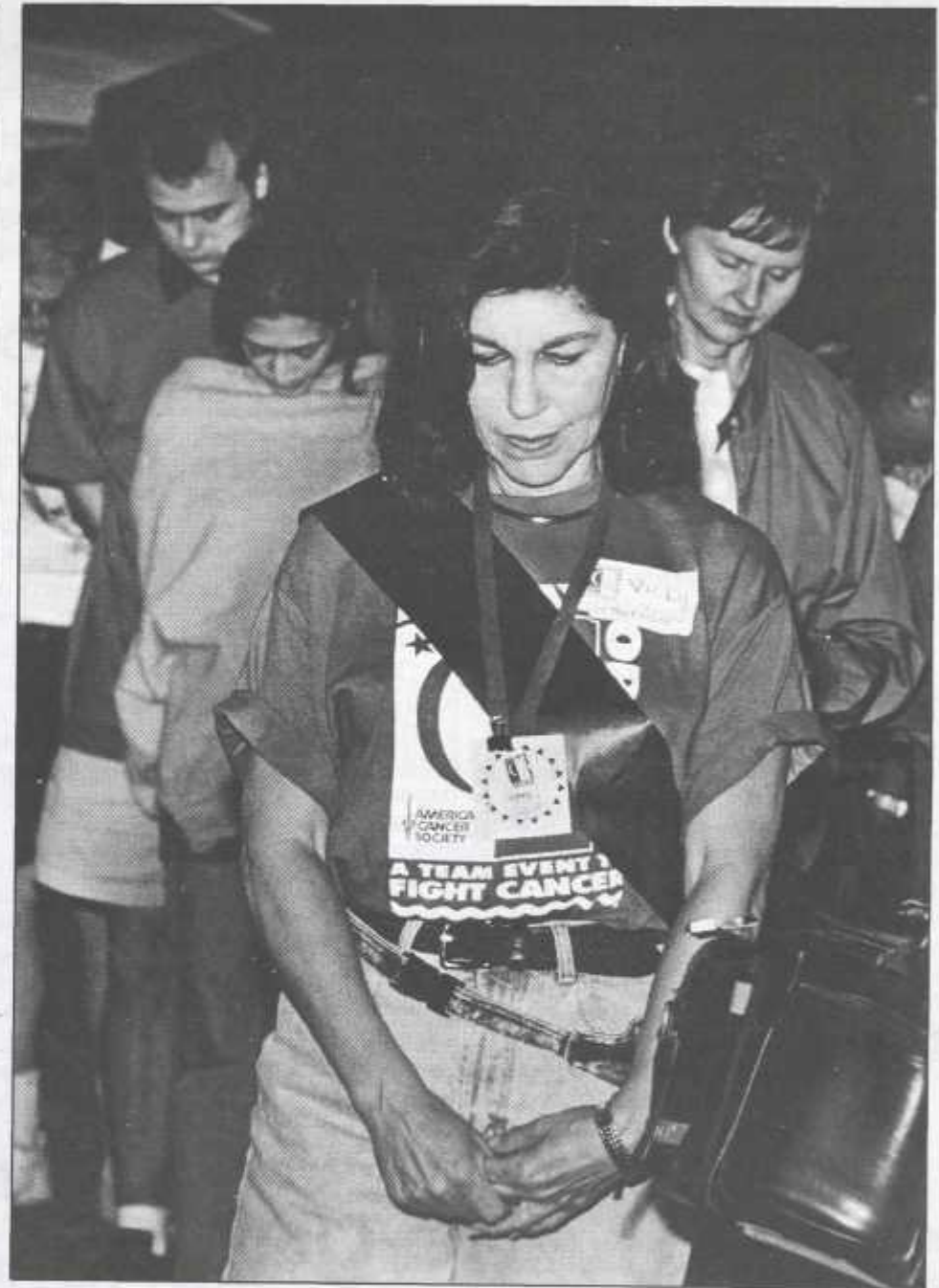
UCF rallies to fight cancer



Markers along the UCF Arena Track were a memorial to cancer victims. The Relay for Life at UCF raised more than \$90,000 for the American Cancer Society.



President John Hitt, flanked by UCF First Lady Martha Hitt (left) and Beth Barnes, senior executive assistant to the president, walked a lap around the UCF track during the Relay for Life, March 26-27.



Above, UCF ombuds officer Vicky Brown and others took time to remember friends and family who lost their battles with cancer. Left, Constituent Relations Director Karen Breakell (dressed as Catwoman) and Physical Plant Director Richard Paradise (Max Klinger from the movie "M*A*S*H") got into the Relay for Life's movie theme.

One of the UCF teams walking to fight cancer was Hitt's Hikers. The Hikers, who adopted "Pillow Talk" as their movie theme, were perhaps the most comfortable at the relay.

Photos
by
Jacque Brund



LEAD Scholars set up a camp site for the overnight relay.

POLARIS makes stars out of creators

On-line information system nominated for nationwide higher education award

Never mind that they just won an award. Computer Services employees just can't leave well enough alone.

Although Tim Larson, associate director, and Tad Simmons, senior systems programmer for Web applications, won a Davis Productivity Award for the development of the Personal On Line Access to Restricted Information System — known as POLARIS — they aren't sitting on their laurels. They want to make it even better.

The system allows faculty, staff and students to access personal and/or private information 24 hours a day through Internet Web access. In fact, POLARIS is so popular it was nominated for the prestigious Higher Education Awards Program, sponsored by the National Association of College

and University Business Officers and Barnes and Nobles College Bookstore. The awards recognize college and university achievements in improving the quality and reducing the cost of higher education programs and services. Winners will be announced in May.

Ironically, it's POLARIS's success that has Larson and Simmons returning to the drawing board. POLARIS took a scary hit during the university's last add/drop period.

"We were swamped by users," says Simmons. "It really slowed the system down. We're taking steps to fix it, so it can handle the overload. At one point, we were getting 5,000 hits per hour."

Not only has POLARIS saved users countless hours by providing easy access to information that would otherwise be time-consuming to obtain, it saved UCF an estimated \$55,495 last year. Next year, the savings will reach \$180,000 because the university will not incur the first-year start-up costs of POLARIS.

Dollars were saved by mailing

grades to only a select group of students and the reduction of the costly registration phone lines, plus the reduction in staff who would normally provide information or generate reports for students and staff.

Students can register on-line, look at their grade history, check "holds," student account summary, fee invoices and financial aid status, and study their progress toward earning a degree. Employees can look at their personnel files, insurance files, leave status and gain access to departmental budgets and other information, if they are authorized to do so. Faculty can keep a watch on their class rolls during registration and also call up the files of students for advisement.

Back in 1995, Simmons created the first course listing for registration on-line. "As a student-employee who doesn't get to register until the last minute, it was information I always wanted," Simmons says. "It was an outgrowth of the tally report that showed how many seats were available in each class. It came out every

midnight during registration and would be out-of-date long before morning. Registration listings on POLARIS are updated every 30 minutes."

Once a secure connection was installed, services were expanded. "We had to find a way to authenticate the authorized user. We were looking for a bridge to secure information on the mainframe, so we could make it available on the Web," says Larson.

"We'd like to add more services, such as allowing users to change their addresses, make transcript requests and refine the class roll information for faculty. POLARIS fits nicely into bringing more services to students," says Simmons.

"Normal office hours don't cut it for lots of students."

The Davis Productivity Awards are presented annually to state workers whose work increases productivity and promotes innovation. The program is sponsored by Florida TaxWatch, The Florida Council of 100 and the state of Florida.

— Joanne Griggs

UCF professor elected president of state's UFF

Longtime education professor Rosie Joels is the first UCF faculty member elected president of the state's United Faculty of Florida and only the second woman elected to a full term in the 25-year history of the UFF.

Joels takes office Aug. 15 and will move to Tallahassee for her two-year term. She will represent the SUS's 10 institutions, nine colleges and three chapters of graduate assistants.



Joels

"We'll be representing the bargaining rights of 13,500 employees," says Joels. "But the exciting thing is the merger on the state level of the

[Florida Teaching Profession- National Education Association] with the [Florida Education Association- American Federation of Teachers].

"The merger gives us the opportunity and challenge of working with a 105,000 statewide membership that has a potentially tremendous political impact," she says.

Joels has been president for the UFF/UCF chapter the last three years. Over 21 years at UCF, she has served on numerous committees and was president of the UCF Faculty Senate.

Joels won the statewide election by promising to work for improved salaries, strengthening academic freedom and combating efforts to weaken tenure.

— Joanne Griggs

In 2001, the games begin in Rec facility

Students will have a new place to play in the not-too-distant future. Slated to open in 2001 is a new, 66,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art Recreational Services Building.

"It's heaven," Recreational Services Director Loren Knutson says of the \$11.5 million building, which will be adjacent to current facilities south of Gemini Boulevard.

In addition to a 12-lane indoor swimming pool, the new building will have room for aerobics, a fitness center three times larger than the current one, a gym with four basketball courts, a workout room, an elevated jogging track and maybe a climbing wall. There will also be space for four racquetball courts, a classroom, offices, locker rooms and snack area.

The building is the first in a two-stage expansion plan. UCF officials are in the process of hiring a project architect to work with UCF architect Tom Woodruff. Ground breaking is

slated for December.

The second phase is not yet funded. However, Knutson hopes it will be designed along with the first building, be as large as its sister facility and contain bowling lanes.

Although the existing outdoor, almost-30-year-old swimming pool will remain for now, Knutson hopes funding will ultimately be available to replace that pool and to improve and expand other outdoor facilities.

"This [Rec Services] will probably become one of the most used buildings on campus," says Knutson.

He anticipates fees will increase for faculty and staff using Recreational Services — the current rate is \$75 per year or \$30 a semester.

One benefit of the new building is it should attract new students. In surveys, top recreation programs rank in the top three as reasons students are drawn to a specific school.

— Susan Loden



Jacque Brund

Page today, Knight tomorrow

More than 500 children attended this year's Alumni Association The Milk/UCF/K-Club Youth Sports Festival on Saturday, March 27. UCF cheerleaders and soccer, basketball, volleyball and football players gave pointers to the future Knights in what is becoming one of the most popular campus events at UCF. Above, junior Matt Schmidt goes toe-to-toe with smaller soccer players. Helping to make the festival possible were the Athletic Department, Recreation Services, Parking Services, Physical Plant, Grounds Department and Police Department.

Caught in the act



Employees who received Davis Productivity Awards this year were thanked for their work by President John Hitt, last week. Davis Productivity Awards are presented annually to state government employees whose work increases productivity and promotes innovation.

UCF pair finalists for state's top student

UCF students Anna Berger and Melissa Zelniker are two of seven finalists for *Florida Leader* magazine's 1999 Florida College Student of the Year.

Nearly 170 students from across the state were nominated for the award, which recognizes students who support themselves through college, excel academically and are involved in community service and political activism. UCF is the only school with two finalists; other finalists are from Eckerd College, Florida State University, Florida Institute of Technology, University of Florida and Central Florida Community College.

An organizational communication major, Berger is involved in activities ranging from director of the LIFT Summit Leadership Conference to volunteering for Habitat for Humanity and Give Kids the World.



Zelniker



Berger

"With two finalists, it really shows how many opportunities UCF has to offer and what caliber students UCF can produce," says Berger.

Melissa Zelniker, a criminal justice/legal studies major, is director of Volunteer UCF and is involved with the UCF Trial Team and Zeta Tau Alpha.

"I feel that I am a product of this university. It has taught me what I need to know in order to succeed; [it] produces quality leaders, and has given me the platform to continue my leadership," says Zelniker.

The overall winner will be announced on April 16. That student, the remaining six finalists and 13 honorable mentions will share nearly \$35,000 in scholarships and prizes.

— Suzanne Ball

Row, row, rowing his boat to fame

Student Jeff Bauer is one of the world's best indoor rowers. A member of the UCF crew team the past four years, he placed in the top 25 percent in international competition at the Indoor Rowing Championships in Boston this winter.

Bauer competed in the lightweight division of CRASH B Sprints. For the 2,000-meter race, computers attached to the rowing machines calculated the distance that would have been rowed in a floating boat. Bauer raced against national team hopefuls from New Zealand, England, Canada and the United States.

— Paul Wilson

Winning awards not Greek to UCF

UCF won several awards at the Southeastern Interfraternity Conference in Atlanta this winter. UCF was one of 20 institutions that received a Fraternal Excellence Award. UCF also was awarded for Outstanding Community and University Relations for the Halloween Knights and VIP Luncheon projects. Newly elected UCF student body Vice President Andrew Cupicha served as president of the 1999 Southeastern Interfraternity Conference.

Trial team holds court this month in national test

The fact that the UCF trial team qualified for the national championships in Des Moines, Iowa, may not surprise anyone; however, people can't help but take notice when they realize the team accomplished the feat in just its first full year of competition — and barely missed having two teams qualify.

While most schools sent one team to the regional finals in Atlanta this winter, three UCF teams of seven students each competed. All three UCF teams finished in the top 50 percent in the competition. UCF's top team will be in the national championship and the school's second-place team is an alternate.

Professors Robert Remis and Diane Sudia, both attorneys, coach the trial team. "Students from other teams told us that we were the toughest team they competed against. A judge told us that Kerry Shaw [a UCF legal studies major] was the best he had ever seen compete and much better than some attorneys that practice in his court," Remis says.

Outstanding Attorney awards were presented to UCF's Vanessa Maiorana and Kerri Baranoski. Outstanding Witness awards went to Kevin Peterson and Carrie Sloan.

The national championships are Friday-Sunday, April 9-11.

— Paul Wilson

Welcome

Margaret Blankenship — office assistant, Molecular Biology and Microbiology; Eunice Choi — assistant director, Small Business Development Center; Jimmy Haynes — senior motor vehicle operator, Physical Plant; Robert Traub — senior computer repair technician, Computer Science.

Kudos

Sheri Dressler, director for Cooperative Education, received the John T. Brownlee Leadership Award for commitment, achievement and leadership. It was awarded by the Florida Cooperative Education and Placement Association at its annual meeting.

Carole Hinshaw, coordinator of library instruction for the UCF Library, presented "Evidence-based Medicine: Finding the Forest for the Trees" at the annual conference of the American Association of Psychiatrists in February. In March, she co-presented "Designing the Perfect Electronic Classroom: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly" at the Syllabus Conference at UCF.

Mark Kamrath, assistant English professor, presented "An Address to the Farmers of Pennsylvania and the Embargo: C. B. Brown's Principle of 'Mutual Dependence'" at the Revising Charles Brockden Brown: A Bicentennial Symposium in Philadelphia. He also reviewed "Las Savages Americans: Representations of Native Americans in French and English Colonial Literature," by Gordon M. Sayre, in *American Literature* in December.

Peter Kincaid, a principal scientist at the Institute for Simulation and Training, is author of the instructor guide, "Research and Analysis Methods in Emergency Management," published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for nationwide use. It is a resource for instructors planning college-level emergency management courses and also serves as a text for the course. FEMA's Emergency Management Institute has proposed approximately 20 courses for development as a core curriculum for enhancing the professional qualifications of emergency managers. The UCF program is in the College of Health and Public Affairs.

Dan Jones, associate English professor, presented "Truth, Lies and the Internet: How Well Does Technical Collaboration Work Online?" at the Orange County Convention Center for EDUCOM.

Kimberly Abel Parsons, senior research scientist specializing in virtual reality and real-time interactive graphics technologies, is the Institute for Simulation and Training's Researcher of the Year. A member of the IST research and development team since 1993, she is responsible for designing and developing a number of the institute's virtual reality and virtual environment research projects. For the 1998 world-class graphic arts technology exposition, SIGGRAPH 98, she produced and directed a demonstration of research advances by IST and the UCF Digital Media Program, CREAT.

Moshe Pelli, director of Judaic Studies, was honored on March 7 by the Histadruth Ivrit of America, the Hebrew Language and Culture Association, at a special literary event held in New York in recognition of the publication of his book "Hebrew Culture in America: 80 Years of the Hebrew Movement in the USA." His book has received widespread praise from the Jewish community for its historical perspective. "The book was planned as a jubilee book to commemorate a cultural phenomenon in the United States; it is not a record only of the past ... but a beacon of a viable movement that still continues to act and flourish," says Pelli.



Pelli

Ken Sheinkopf and Susan Schleith of the Florida Solar Energy Center and Blanche Sheinkopf of the College of Education will present papers on the educational program at FSEC at the International Solar Energy Society's World Solar Congress in Jerusalem, in July. The first paper is on the comprehensive solar energy curriculum unit developed by the three presenters. A second paper covers FSEC's wide-ranging educational program, including distance education, continuing education courses and international training and education. Ken Sheinkopf will also present a paper on FSEC's educational programs at the annual meeting of the American Solar Energy Society in Portland, Maine, in June. He is a member of the board of the society and chair of its educational division.

Jeanne Leiby, assistant English professor, was a participant in Share Our Strength benefit fiction reading at UCF in November. She published a review of "Certain Animals" and "The Harvest," by UCF professor Judith Hemschemeyer, in *Black Warrior Review*.

CALENDAR

2

Art (Library exhibits through April 30): "In Fitting Memory," by Eva Ritt; "Spanish Across the Curriculum," by Maria Redmon; "Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Awareness Month," by Erika Pugh; "Excellence in Computer Science," by Udaya Venulapate; "College of Education Faculty Publications," by Larry Hudson; "Orlando-UCF Shakespeare Festival 10th Anniversary," by Christine Card.

Service: The Passion According to St. John, Good Friday service, sponsored by Catholic Campus Ministry, Student Union, room 218C, noon. 657-6114 x226

3

Golf tournament: 1999 Culpepper Classic, Golden Ocala Golf Club, sponsored by Marion/Alachua Alumni Chapter and Vanguard Touchdown Club, \$75. 823-2586

Music: Faculty Recital — John Almeida, trumpet; Gary Wolf, piano, Rehearsal Hall, 3 p.m. 823-2869

Open house: Scholars Day, Visual Arts Building, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. 823-5437

5

Art (through May 3): 1999 BFA Exhibition, Art Gallery. 823-2676
Lecture: Harold Hodgkinson, demographics, Student Union, 1:30-3:30 (available on April 6 for individual appointments). 823-6479 or lsullivan@mail.ucf.edu

6

Lecture: Open forum with former U.S. Reps. Jolene Unsoeld and Harold Sawyer, Student Union, Cape Florida ballroom, 4-5 p.m. 823-2223

Lecture: Learning Institute for Elders at UCF (LIFE). 249-4778 or lifeucf@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu

1999 BFA Exhibition, Art Gallery, April 5-May 3



Civility in classroom

"Faculty on the Front Lines: Civility in the Classroom," a live teleconference sponsored by the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, will be held in the Student Union's Cape Florida Ballroom on Thursday, April 8, 2:30-4 p.m. A tape of the teleconference will be shown in BA 119 on Friday, April 9, also 2:30-4 p.m. Faculty are encouraged to attend one of the events. For information, call 823-3477 or check out one of the following Web sites: [www://reach.ucf.edu/~fctl](http://reach.ucf.edu/~fctl) or [www://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~mediate/conference.html](http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~mediate/conference.html).

Calling all UCF walkers

The UCF Walk Team is getting ready for the March of Dimes "WalkAmerica." Almost 100 walkers have already signed up, with at least another 50 expected. The team will walk Saturday, April 24, at Loch Haven Park. To join the walk, call team captain **Betty Conklin** of the Community Relations Office, 317-7725 or bconklin@mail.ucf.edu, or one of the following: College of Arts and Sciences — **Edna Rolle**, 823-0119; College of Business Administration — **Carol Bates**, 823-2182; College of Education, **Kim Whitney**, 823-5529; College of Engineering and School of Optics/CREOL — **Donna Wilson**, 823-6834; College of Health and Public Affairs — **Karen Cobbs**, 823-0030; Administration and Library — **Sheila Anderson**, 823-2504; Research Park — **Carmen Milbuta**, 275-4333. Team walkers must raise at least \$25 to receive an official UCF Team T-shirt, food ticket and qualify for prizes, including a weekend getaway, dinner for two and theme park tickets. Additional incentives will be offered by the March of Dimes. On Tuesday, April 6, the UCF walkers will have a candy jar contest outside of the Student Union, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. A \$1 donation is needed to guess and proceeds will go to the March of Dimes. The person who guesses closest to the number of candies will receive a prize.

7

Lecture: "The Role of Environmental Policy in the U.S.," former Rep. Jolene Unsoeld, Student Union, room 224, 1-2:30 p.m.; "Experiences on the Select Committees for the Assassin-

ations of Kennedy and King," former Rep. Harold Sawyer, Student Union, room 218, 1-2:30 p.m. 823-2223

Star gazing: Public viewing, Robinson Observatory, free, 7:30-10:30 p.m. 823-2805

Meeting: Toastmasters Club, Research Parkway Pavilion, 7:30 a.m. 823-3312 or 671-2656

8

Music: UCF Orchestra — Symphony Under The Stars, Reflecting Pond, 7:30 p.m. 823-6471

9

Teleconference: "The Senior Year Experience: Where Dreams and Realities Converge," Library 157,

1-4 p.m. mzeitze@mail.ucf.edu
Sports: Baseball vs. Campbell, Tinker Field, noon. 823-1000

11

Music: Pegasus Trio Concert — Gary Wolf, piano; Ayako Yonetani, violin; David Cedel, cello, 7:30 p.m., Rehearsal Hall. 823-2869

13

Job fair: Education Building Gym, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 823-2361

Lecture: Bluestocking Luncheon — "Toxic Poisoning, Unhappy Women and Bad Sex," Jeanne Leiby, Student Union, room 220, noon-1 p.m. 823-6502

Lecture: Learning Institute for Elders at UCF Inc. (LIFE). 249-4778 or lifeucf@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu

Meeting: AFSCME, College of Education, dean's conference room, noon. 823-2773

14

Music: UCF Early Music Ensemble, Rehearsal Hall, 8 p.m. 823-2869

15

Music: UCF Synthesizer Ensemble, Rehearsal Hall, 8 p.m. 823-2869

Meeting: Staff Assembly, Student Union Garden Key room. 823-6060

Theatre (through April 25): "A Piece of My Heart," by Shirley Lauro. 823-1500

16

Lecture: Robert Ballard, leader of the Titanic expedition, sponsored by CAB, UCF Arena, free, 8 p.m. 823-6471

Race: SWAT 5K Run/Walk, sponsored by Health Resource Center. 823-5841

17

Music: Spring Choral Concert — UCF choirs, conductor David Brunner, Oakridge High School Choir, Visual Arts Building Auditorium, 8 p.m. 823-2869

Open House: Scholars Day, Visual Arts Building, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. 823-5437

For a more complete calendar, check out the universitywide listing on the Web (<http://www.ucf.edu/pubrel/>).

April

CLASSIFIED

For Sale

Car, '95 Ford Escort hatchback; one owner; excellent condition; 40K miles, \$5,995. 384-2189.

Condo, great rental property in Tuskawilla, 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, all electronics, near golf course and other amenities. Mitch, 856-6585.

Home, 2/2 in Palm Valley, 55+ community, 3 miles north of UCF off Alafaya Trail, 1,056 sq. ft. (24'x44'), move in condition. \$34,500 obo. 366-0314.

Vacuum Cleaner, Tri-Star, 1 year old, all attachments, \$500

obo. Paid \$1,200. Also, **lawn mowers**, \$25 and up. 381-5068 (leave message).

Bunk beds, black, tubular design, like new. Full- and twin-size mattresses. \$195, was \$450 new. John, 856-6585.

For Rent

House, 4/2 executive home in Madison Park at Carillon, close to campus. Double garage, formal living/dining, family room, nice kitchen, bonus room. Backyard opens to greenbelt. Sorry, no pets/smokers. \$1,500, available June 1. 365-2620 (leave message) or (925) 933-6584.

Villa, 2BR, 2 bath, for 1 or 2 persons. Lovely landscaping,

garage, W/D, central heat & air. No pets. In Winter Park, 7 miles from UCF. 980-4088 or paulench@magicnet.net.

Wanted

House sitting or rental opportunity, for female faculty member coming to UCF as a visiting professor, August-May 2000. Details: Phil Taylor, 823-2852.

Home for a pair of stray cats. 2 females, spayed, vaccinated (rabies). Petite, gray short-hair with splashes of lighter colors. Currently outdoor residents but have spent the night on the patio without incident so they probably could be indoor pets if desired. Allergic to cats or I would adopt them. humphrie@mail.ucf.edu.